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After a series of thorough tests in Germany and London it has been demonstrated that Herr Dowe's coat cannot be penetrated by bullets. The impenetrable quality of the stuff is seen in the fact that the German rifle which can send a bullet at a distance of 100 yards through a thick steel plate strikes harmlessly against the new coat of mail, which is described as "a wire netting incased in a cement-like mass." So, in spite of much misgiving and considerable ridicule of his invention, "the little tailor of Mannheim" is on his way to fame and fortune.

There is, however, says the Philadelphia Record, one very great drawback to the success of the invention, which puts its use by soldiers in the field practically out of the question. The coat, which weighs not less than six pounds, is as impervious to air as it is to bullets, and in a great battle more men would be stifled to death or rendered unfit for action by the wearing of such an apparatus over their breasts than could be saved by it. On going into action the first impulse of the soldier would be to strip off Dowe's coat and take the chance of a bullet through the breast in preference to suffocation. Highly desirable as it is that the terrible casualties of the battlefield should be lessened as much as possible, the practical utility of this novel armor is extremely doubtful. This, too, seems to be the conclusion of the German military authorities.

On the other hand, it is conceded that Herr Dowe's invention will be of great value for the construction of light barracks, batteries, army tents, and boats, and for many other uses in defensive warfare. If it shall possess all the qualities that are claimed for it the material may largely supplant steel armor for men-of-war. But there are physical laws which make Herr Dowe's invention of no value to man or horse on the field of battle. It is not improbable, however, that improvements may remove or greatly lessen the difficulty of using the stuff as defensive armor for the individual soldier. At any rate, Herr Dowe has invented a material which is impenetrable by bullets, and this cannot be said of steel plates, nor of any other known material of defensive armor.

The Case Not Utterly Desperate.

"I am to understand, then, Miss Plunkett," said the young man, outwardly calm, whatever may have been the tempest of passion that agitated his interior, "that this avowal is an unwelcome surprise to you?"

"I have never dreamed, Mr. Hankinson," she replied, with cold and almost disdainful glance, "of the possibility of such a thing, and I beg that you will never renew the subject."

"It would be useless to reopen the discussion, would it?"

"It would."

"You could never look upon me in any other light than that of a friend?"

"Never."

He was silent a moment, and then, with a visible effort at unconcern, he said:

"Pardon me for asking the question, Miss Plunkett, but was there anything unseemly or repellent in my language or in my manner of expressing myself?"

"No, sir. Under the circumstances, Mr. Hankinson, I have no objection to saying that you expressed yourself admirably. Your words were well chosen and your manner, apart from the emotion, which I need not say I do not share, was unobjectionable."

"Had you been at all predisposed in my favor, then, you could have listened kindly to me and—and might—might possibly—"

"I think I may say yes to that," she said, pitying his evident embarrassment.

"Yet—yet it made no impression on your affections—on your heart?"

"None at all."

"And it will never be of any use for me to ask you again?"

"Once again, Mr. Hankinson," said the young woman coldly, "and once for all, no."

"Then you won't mind my telling you, Miss Plunkett," he said, gaily relieved, "that I was indulging in a little preliminary practice with a view to calling on Laura Bilderback. I am going there now. Good evening, Miss Plunkett."

Started the Dudelets.

The other day a young man wanted a pair of evening gloves late at night, and had to go over to Sixth avenue to get them, says the New York Press. There he found a pair of white gloves, and a pair of white gloves, while pearl alone are de rigueur. However, he was a dashing man and had to wear gloves, so he bought the gloves, and in due course of time led the dillion wearing them. The chappies were astounded. Nobody could question this man's irreproachable taste, and in fact he was something of a leader of fashion. After supper a breathless deputation waited upon him to know whether or not white gloves had come back again.

"I'm wearing them myself, you see, dear boy," he said, jokingly, but with a slightly superior smile. "I haven't really heard whether the prince has found it out yet or not."

Now your true duke is not susceptible to the influence of irony. Besides, the deputation was flustered at the innovation. The result was that they mixed those speeches up, and in half an hour everybody in the room was saying that the Prince of Wales had taken to wearing white gloves in the evening, and that Tom Blank was the first man in New York to hear of it. So white gloves and not pearl are now the proper things to wear in New York City on dress occasions, and when our man of fashion strolled into the Metropolitan Opera House the other night and looked around the circle he smiled grimly. Half the men in the boxes looked as if they were carrying snowballs.

A WIFE has more occasion to fear a fashionable club than a highwayman's bludgeon.

It costs the community more to maintain one loafer than a hundred gentle gals.